Time flies faster than a weaver’s shuttle.

FROM THE HEADMISTRESS

Let’s Celebrate: International Women’s Day
Our stories, our spirit, our strength

Mrs Megan Krimmer
Headmistress

This Sunday it is International Women’s Day – a very important day in the world’s and, of course, Abbotsleigh’s calendar.

International Women’s Day celebrates the phenomenal achievements of women worldwide; it also focuses on what is yet to be done to achieve full equality. Research demonstrates that sending your daughters to a girls’ school is a huge step in ultimately reaching this goal, as girls from girls’ schools are typically confident, articulate young women who are courageous leaders in whatever field they choose to make their mark. Girls’ schools also provide excellent women role models and I am delighted that, over the past two weeks, we have had a number of guest speakers in the Senior School who have been great examples to our girls. Our staff and the girls themselves are of equal importance in this domain. In fact, the assembly run by our AbbDiplomats, led by Olivia Harlamb (Year 11) in the Senior School, was absolutely superb and every girl involved deserves our warmest congratulations.

Over the next few weeks, The Shuttle will feature extracts from speeches and presentations given by these guest speakers and our girls. Today’s article is the speech Mrs Jennifer Calo gave to the Class of 2020 as they celebrated their final Mother Daughter Breakfast together last Monday.

"Reflecting on today being an Abbotsleigh Mother and Daughter event, I chose to wear suffragette earrings, a ring gifted to me by my grandmother and another ring gifted to me by my mother. To me, these items are small, outward symbols that I believe embody what our gathering of mothers, daughters, guardians and supporters represent. That is, a legacy of love, support, belief and determination that echoes from the generations of women past to the present and focuses on our girls today.

"The first Headmistress of Abbotsleigh, Miss Marian Clarke, received enrolments from parents who wanted their daughters to receive a “proper” education, an education more rigorous than a standard finishing school. These parents wanted to prepare their daughters with an education that was academically robust, which could lead to university studies. An education that would equip their daughter to understand the issues of the day.

"This was quite a controversial and forward-thinking path for families to choose in the late 1800s! Women worked in the home. Women were not
Yet permitted to vote. “Are women capable of voting?” was quite openly and seriously debated. It was a time when very, very few women had attended university anywhere in the world.

‘Today, female suffrage and women attending university, especially Abbotsleigh graduates, are mainstream. Your challenges beyond Abbotsleigh look very different from 135 years ago. The world is still a man’s world. Women still face inequity both in Australia and globally, but there are many other inequities that your insight and education will be helpful in dismantling.

‘Each girl in this year group has experienced their schooling differently. For some, your only experience of school is being an Abbotsleigh girl. Others have been to several schools, maybe interstate or overseas.

‘Boarders have lived 24 hours a day, seven days a week with each other and know the weekly lunch and dinner menu and each other very well. Day girls are accustomed to the Pacific Highway overbridge and know the North Shore train timetable by heart. Some of you are introverts, some are cautious and others are daredevils, but no matter your differences you are forever linked as Abbotsleigh’s year group of 2020.

‘Your peers will help buoy you through the coming turbulent months and many of you will remain invested in each other’s lives, successes and life stories into the next generation.

‘Abbotsleigh staff – Mrs Krimmer, Mrs Rennie, Mrs Ware, Mrs Kerr, tutors, classroom teachers and every staff member have been involved in crafting macro or micro programs that have nurtured your intellect and skills. They have encouraged and extended your thinking. You have had a “proper” and rigorous academic education.

‘Rev and the Christian studies staff have encouraged you to look at Christian faith, helping you to test your own beliefs and to look at the role of faith in your life and faith’s role in the wider world.

‘And so I arrive at the mothers here today. Like those early Abbotsleigh parents we believe in our girls too!

‘We have tried to provide you with an education suitable for a future that is still taking shape. We have tried to make sure you have the skills to achieve your dreams, face your personal challenges and contribute to society’s debates as valuable citizens.

‘Over the years we have made lunches, signed permission slips and found socks. We have attended debates, concerts and performances. We have cheered and chatted on the sports sidelines, celebrated the wins with you and known that the losses have helped build your resilience. Occasionally we have rejoiced when fields were closed due to wet weather.

‘We have also learnt that if we are in the car by 6 am we can make Frensham by 7.30 but if an “L” plater is driving it is best to leave home by 5.30! As Year 12 parents we have also found our favourite spot to park (often kept secret) in Wahroonga, and we have become accustomed to the “speed dating” of your Parent/Teacher interviews.

‘Abbotsleigh 2020. You have kind hearts and this morning I would like to acknowledge the wonderful women that you are becoming, I say becoming because you are still only at the beginning of your journey. HSC results and ATARs are only going to be part of your story. Your humanity, your true value is much more difficult to measure. You, “our girls”, are well equipped to step into the future and it is a future that you will help to shape positively. It will be your legacy.

‘You all should all feel very confident tackling the next few months at school. The HSC is an important next step on your journey and is worthy of your efforts. You have enquiring minds, good support and, despite not yet completing school, you have an awareness of the world and a worldliness that is superior to any previous generation.

‘So today from the women here in body, and from the generations of women whose spirits echo down through the years, I would like to offer to our daughters our best wishes, our support and our love as they finish their final school year. I look forward to seeing what “the women of Abbotsleigh 2020” will become as this first chapter has flown by “faster than a weaver’s shuttle”.

Jennifer Calo
24 February 2020

Chaplain

Do not be afraid! Toilet paper, hand sanitiser and hope.

Rev Jenni Stoddart
Chaplain

Do you know that the Bible says ‘Fear not’ over 365 times? One for every day of the year. This week I stood in front of empty shelves. Next to me was another woman. We looked at each other, smiled and paused. In that moment we each had to choose our way forward. The way of fear or the way of hope.

In Jesus’ day one of the greatest fears people held was of water. The seas were seen as dangerous and chaotic. Quite a different culture from beach-loving Australia. One day Jesus was on the water with his disciples. They were in a small boat in a large sea when they were caught in a storm. A dangerous storm. It felt like chaos. Jesus was asleep! The disciples awoke him saying, ‘Don’t you care about us?’
Jesus’ response was to get up and rebuke the waves. This man who is God quite simply rebuked the chaos of the world. He said, ‘Quiet! Be still!’ Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. Jesus comes to show us that his world is not out of God’s control. Even in the chaos we can trust him.

When we feel overwhelmed or fearful we have an opportunity to stop, pause and work out how we move forward. God invites us to put trust in him. Jesus’ model of sacrifice invites us to act wisely but with generosity for others. Jesus’ answer to the disciples’ question, ‘Does God care?’, is a resounding yes! We see this yes on Easter Sunday when Jesus defeats death and delivers the promise of Eternity.

As we act with care and concern for each other in a challenging season please know the chaplains are available to support you and your family.

Community

Abbotsleigh Literary Festival

Parent volunteers needed for the Literary Festival

Kathy Campbell
Parent Volunteer

The Abbotsleigh Literary Festival is coming up – a fabulous event that celebrates literature for all ages. As you may be aware, it is held every two years and is open to the Abbotsleigh community, other schools and the public. All are welcome.

We are asking for Parent Volunteers to help with the smooth running of the festival, which takes place from Wednesday 25 March to Friday 27 March. Thank you so much to those who have already volunteered!

We need more volunteers at various times at the Junior School and Senior School during those three days.

If you are unable to commit time, there is also the option to drop in a plate of morning tea for the authors and illustrators (plates can be dropped before school starts).

Please see the following link to Sign Up for the time slots (or baking options!) that best suit you.

NB: If you are viewing this on a smartphone, you will see a drop down menu of six options for days/location (Junior or Senior School).

If you are viewing on a PC, you will see six tabs across the top of the page with the options for days/location (Junior or Senior School).

We look forward to seeing you at the Literary Festival!
An annual exhibition at the Grace Cossington Smith Gallery celebrating the imagination and creativity of HSC 2019 Visual Arts students from schools in the Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby district.

With Mr Alister Henskens SC MP, member for Ku-ring-gai

26 February to 19 March 2020

Flyers need landings! Into cafes, shops and libraries...

Kathy Campbell
Parent Volunteer

If you are willing to spend a few extra minutes at your nearest cafe or make a trip to your local library, would you take along a few Literary Festival flyers for their counter tops?

The invitation to the Abbotsleigh Literary Festival is extended to all – family, friends, other schools and the wider community. We would be grateful if parents could take some flyers and place them, with permission, in shops, cafes or libraries local to your home.

If you are able to help, please go to Reception at either the Junior School or Senior School to pick up a handful of flyers.

Thanking you in advance! Your help is much appreciated.
Junior School

Outdoor Education week
Ms Sally Ruston
Head of Junior School

Why do we take girls out of their known comfort zone into an outdoor environment that is vastly different to their usual experiences in the classroom and school yard? This is a good question when one knows of the extensive organisation that is required both at school and at home to ensure safe and enriching experiences, coupled with the disruption to staff and home life for all.

The answer is twofold. Firstly, our intent is to demonstrate that deep and profound learning happens when we go beyond our known environment into contexts that are unfamiliar and specifically chosen to provide unique and scaffolded learning experiences. For our Transition girls, their walking trip to explore the ACEE was their first foray beyond the school gate. When Kindergarten girls explored the farm environment their curiosity was piqued, knowledge base expanded and tolerance for the unusual grown. Negotiating a train trip with changes of trains, followed by a ferry trip and a day of exploring an isolated bush setting for Year 1 girls were first time experiences for many. Managing this range of experiences sets the girls up well for all that is ahead in subsequent years when living with ambiguity and responding spontaneously are important attributes that will stand them in great stead.

Spending the first night away from home for some girls in Years 2 and 3 is a challenge in the first instance, but what a sense of independence and accomplishment is realised as a result! Riding a horse for the first time in Year 4 requires girls to conquer fears and face the uncertainty involved in asserting one’s will over an animal. How useful these skills and experiences will be back in the classroom and in everyday living!

For three days our Year 5 girls lived in an environment that challenged their ideas of personal hygiene and space. Managing to keep yourself dry, clean and organised in a two-person tent in a remote bushland setting, along with problem solving around stacking crates and climbing through the wombat hole are, for most, very different experiences that require skills of persistence, audacity and courage.

Our Year 6 girls have realised many firsts. They have been away from family and familiar surroundings for a full week without access to technology. A visit to the War Memorial, where they laid a wreath and heard inspirational stories of courage, loss and personal sacrifice, will stay with them for a long time to come. So, too, will the achievement of climbing Australia’s highest mountain as a 10 or 11-year-old. Conquering fears, exploring the unknown, coping with the challenges of different beds and food unfamiliar are all impressive feats of the girls.

Secondly, we are committed to growing the girls’ capacity to be resilient. While this is an attribute that I believe all parents and educators want for our girls, we live in an environment on the ‘leafy upper north shore of Sydney’ that mostly insulates us from experiences as described above. Persistence, organisation, social affability and confidence are the key tenets of the You Can Do It! program we use with the girls to grow their resilience. These, too, are the very attributes the Outdoor Education Program gives opportunity for and growth in, whilst learning beyond the classroom. While the experiences themselves are designed to be engaging, challenging and a great deal of fun, it is the success had in surmounting fears, overcoming obstacles through grit and persistence, learning the art of collaboration and growing independence, that will ultimately benefit the girls well beyond this week.

I warmly encourage you to chat with your daughter about the camp experiences and help her realise that stepping out of one’s comfort zone and exploring beyond the known are worthwhile pursuits that are to be embraced.

This week in assembly I summoned the support of the girls to say a special ‘thankyou’ to the teachers and assistants who so well supported them. The compassion, kindness, assistance and concern shown for each girl’s wellbeing was absolute and astounding. It is important for the girls to recognise the contribution and sacrifice made by the supporting adults throughout the past week. The ability to show gratitude and grace are also attributes we know are so important for the girls’ ongoing wellbeing and to create a community that we are all proud to call our own.
Why walk with purpose?

Ms Sally Ruston  
Head of Junior School

Keeping safe and connected are two very good reasons why ‘walking with purpose’ is what I commended to our girls in Assembly prior to Outdoor Education Week. Our body language communicates so much about our levels of confidence and readiness to engage. Given the phenomenon is well researched, let’s not keep this highly valuable information a secret. Rather, let’s explain and model to the girls just how they, too, can make a very positive first impression in being assured and confident Abbotsleigh girls.

So, what does ‘walking with purpose’ look like? When we walk with a confident stride and at pace, smile, engage with eye contact and step out as we have important tasks to complete, then we communicate an air of authority and engagement.

Such behaviour has two very positive outcomes. Firstly, we are seen as being warm, willing to engage and positive in demeanour. Girls who do this are much more likely to grow friendships and to sustain relationships. We want to surround ourselves with positive, energised and upbeat people. Such behaviour is contagious and something we are naturally drawn to. Secondly, such confident and purposeful behaviour insulates against negative targeting. This is especially important when out in public and travelling the world over. An outward-looking gaze enables us to move away from possible threats well before they are upon us, as well as be considerate and compassionate towards those around us.

While we don’t always feel confident and smiling can be effortful, the benefits of adopting such behaviours are so positive and immediate that we encourage all girls to do so. We all want our girls to be happy, confident and successful learners who are able to thrive in social contexts. Such outcomes are indeed possible when we share explicitly with the girls the behaviours that are most likely to see such success realised.

Chess Competition reminder

Ms Jo Colman  
JS Classroom teacher

Permission notes for the Friday afternoon Interschool Chess Competition in Term 2 are due today. When the teams are formed and the competition draw is known for the Friday Chess Competition, parents will receive information so that they can nominate when they can assist with transport. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to email me on colman@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au

Abbotsleigh hosts Kids’ Lit Quiz

Miss Susanna Matters  
Year 6 Coordinator

On Monday 16 March 2020, Abbotsleigh Junior School will host the Sydney heat of the Kids’ Lit Quiz. This is an annual literature quiz for students aged 10–13 years, which is held in many countries around the world and is a wonderful way to celebrate a love of reading.

Congratulations to the following Stage 3 students who will represent Abbotsleigh at this event: Cate Atkinson, Kaitlyn Blair, Liana Chai, Serena Chi, Cecilia He, Amber Johnson, Amber Li, Olivia Lin, Abigail Ly, Becky Qiu, Annabelle Wang and Melanie Wong

National Young Leaders Day 2020

Mrs Carmen Gaspersic  
Deputy Head of Junior School

On Monday 1 March, many of the Junior School Leaders attended the 2020 Halogen National Young Leaders Day at Darling Harbour. The purpose of this national event is to motivate and inspire students who show an interest in developing their leadership potential.

More than 23,000 students, along with their teachers/principals, attend this event around Australia annually. It was a wonderful opportunity for our Abbotsleigh students to not only hear from outstanding guest speakers, but also interact with them, gaining valuable insight into the character traits that make strong, empathetic and resilient leaders.

Our Year 6 Leaders were inspired by Erin Molan's story of managing to succeed in a very male-
dominated workplace. She is a football commentator on *The Sunday Footy Show*. Erin also recalled the 98 rejection letters she received when applying for media jobs and how she used the rejections to motivate her to succeed – a true sign of resilience! The girls were delighted to meet Erin after her presentation.

Other guest speakers, such as Rove McManus (media presenter and author) and Bianca Chatfield, (Australian netballer) shared stories of drive, dedication and persistence in their chosen fields of interest and talent. Isla Engelbrecht even got a chance to ask Rove McManus a question about who inspired him to be an author.

Without a doubt, the most motivating speaker was John Coutis, an amazing man who has lived with a severe physical disability since childhood. The girls were amazed by his positive approach, even though he has had to battle adversity throughout his life. John’s message was plain and simple: ‘Be thankful for the little things.’ What a wonderful reminder about the importance of gratitude.

---

**Year 5 Colo River Camp**

Mrs Jodie Spencer  
*JS Classroom Teacher*

Year 5 enjoyed a three-day camp at Somerset Outdoor Learning Centre in Colo River. It was a wonderful opportunity for the girls to make new friends, take part in challenging activities, camp in tents and experience outdoor education. Activities were ‘challenge by choice’ but all girls participated one way or another, which demonstrated their great persistence and resilience. Some of the highlights for students were crate stacking and swimming in the Colo River, rock climbing, archery and launching rockets. But none were as exciting as crawling through the infamous ‘wombat hole’ and becoming master chefs in the ‘My Kampsite Rules’ competition. Teachers, instructors and group members all provided a supportive environment where students felt encouraged to have a go at new experiences and explore new ways of relating to others. As a result of camp, the Year 5 girls have gained some memory-making experiences from this extraordinary time away and built a strong sense of camaraderie with their peers.

---

**Year 6 Camp thrills!**

Miss Susanna Matters  
*Year 6 Coordinator*

Year 6 girls had an educational, stimulating and fun-filled trip to Canberra and Thredbo. The challenging climb to the summit of Mt Kosciuszko was enhanced by picture-perfect weather and the expert botanical and geographical knowledge of our guides. On completion of the walk, the girls allowed their muscles to recover in the pool (and on the water slide!) at Thredbo Leisure Centre. Much experiential learning, exploration and discovery were had earlier in Canberra. While in the nation’s capital, the girls visited the National Capital Exhibition Centre, Old and New Parliament Houses, the Australian Mint, the Australian War Memorial (at which they participated in a Wreath Laying Ceremony), the Electoral Education Centre and Questacon, the National Science and Technology Centre. They also participated in a bicycle ride around Lake Burley Griffin and Sportex at the Australian Institute of Sport. A special highlight this year was a guided tour of the Picasso/Matisse exhibition at the National Gallery to enhance the girls’ current Visual Arts unit of work on cubism.

This was an action-packed and stimulating undertaking where much of what was experienced will be used for new learning and discussion in subsequent weeks and terms. We were very pleased that again this year a change in funding initiative has meant that the cost of this excursion has been slightly reduced due to the Federal Government Parliament Civics Education Rebate. This rebate has been taken into account in the Outdoor Education item on your school statement.
IPSHA Swimming and Diving Carnivals

Mr Paul Guirreri
JS PDHPE Coordinator

Wednesday 4 March saw the annual running of the IPSHA Swimming and Diving Carnival at Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre. Our team had a fabulous day of competition. Many girls improved their entry qualifying time at the carnival by large increments, which was fabulous to see.

Congratulations to the following girls who have been selected for the IPSHA Swimming Team to compete at the CIS Carnival on Thursday 26 March:
- Audrey Jackson – senior girls 4x50m relay
- Chanel Kang – senior girls 4x50m relay
- Jasmine Kamil – senior girls relay, 11yrs 50m butterfly, 11yrs 50m backstroke
- Leisel Tan – senior girls 4x50m relay, 12/13yrs 50m freestyle, 12/13yrs 50m butterfly, 12/13yrs 50m backstroke.

Results from the Abbotsleigh Diving Team who competed at IPSHA:
- 8 years Springboard: Allie Marinovic 8th
- 9 years Springboard: Victoria Sherlock 7th, Jasmine Yap 10th, Ava Jamieson 11th
- 10 years Springboard: Mia Micallef 6th, Eve Glendining 14th, Charlize Mackie 17th
- 11 years Springboard: Emily Rundell 3rd, Alisha Ly 11th, Carys Byrnes 13th
- 12 years Springboard: Aurora Caie 1st, Georga Micallef 4th, Charlotte Parasyn 6th, Nicole Gabonian 12th

Congratulations to the following girls who have been selected for the IPSHA Diving Team to compete at the upcoming CIS Carnival on Thursday 26 March: Aurora Caie, Allie Marinovic, Georga Micallef and Emily Rundell.

We wish all these girls every success at the CIS Swimming and Diving Carnival. A big thankyou to Joao Loureiro for the fabulous work he did with our team, both in the lead up to the carnival and on the day. Our girls are very lucky to be guided by such experts in their field!

JS Cross Country Carnival 2020

Mr Paul Guirreri
JS PDHPE Coordinator

Next Tuesday 10 March sees the running of our JS Primary Interhouse Cross Country Carnival at our SS Campus from 10.50 am-1.30 pm. The girls will depart for Senior School following morning tea. Girls turning 8, 9 and 10 years old in 2020 will run approximately 2km. Girls turning 11 and 12 years old in 2020 will run approximately 3km. The top five finishers in each event will be guaranteed progression to the IPSHA Cross Country Carnival on Saturday 4 April at The Kings' School. Parents/carers are welcome as spectators on the day and are encouraged to join their daughters on the walk of the course.

We also require lots of parent helpers to assist at our various checkpoints to ensure the safety of our girls at all times on the course. If you have a current WWCC and are available on the day, please complete the online form asap. Please click here to complete the online Parent Helper form.

JS Snow Sports Team Parent Information Evening

Mr Paul Guirreri
JS PDHPE Coordinator

A reminder for all parents who have expressed an interest in their daughter participating in the JS Snow Sports team in 2020 that there will be an information evening next Tuesday 10 March in the Lower Everett room commencing at 7 pm. This meeting is essential for parents of girls who have not previously been part of the JS Snow Sports team.
National Ride2School Day

Mr Paul Guirreri  
JS PDHPE Coordinator

Abbotsleigh Junior School will be participating in the National Ride2School Day next Friday 13 March. This is a great way for students to include physical activity as part of their daily life. We encourage girls to ride or walk to school on this day. Below are some tips for ensuring that your daughter is riding her bike safely.

- Always wear a correctly fitted, approved bike helmet.
- Obey traffic lights and signs.
- Ride on the left side of the road.
- Give hand signals to turn left or right.
- Give way to pedestrians and other vehicles when entering and crossing a road.

When using a footpath or shared pedestrian/bicycle path, keep to the left and give way to pedestrians.

In NSW, children up to 12 years of age and any accompanying adults may legally ride on the footpaths. Further information on the Ride2School program can be obtained here.

Senior School

2020 Abbotsleigh Literary Festival

Mrs Bronwyn Foxall  
Head of Library

This biennial event themed ‘Seeing books: a celebration of writers, illustrators and performers’, will be held from Wednesday 25 March to Friday 27 March. It is a festival for the whole Abbotsleigh community with events for children and adults. It is also open to the public.

We have a stellar line-up of speakers including Morris Gleitzman, Kate Forsyth, Belinda Murrell, Jacqueline Harvey, Amie Kaufman, Oliver Phommavanh and many, many others. For more information including the program and a list of authors, illustrators and performers, visit the Literary Festival website.

Sessions for Abbotsleigh students are free. Senior School girls can choose which sessions they would like to attend with the exception of events for the whole year group. The girls have been given access to the booking system and will need to book quickly to get their first choices.

We have several exciting events for adults:

- Opening Champagne Reception on Tuesday 24 March in the Grace Cossington Smith Gallery, featuring Andrew Daddo. Book here
- Adult crime writing workshop on Thursday 26 March from 9 am-12 noon in the Betty Archdale Library. More information on adult writing workshops can be found here
- Morning tea with Tannya Harricks in the Grace Cossington Smith Gallery from 9.30-11.50 am. This will be an opportunity for budding artists and for those interested in book illustration

You are also welcome to sign up for any of the visitor sessions!

Don’t miss Visualising Stories, an exhibition at the Grace Cossington Smith Gallery from 24 March to 23 April, that highlights diverse approaches to contemporary children’s book illustration.

Abbotsleigh Literary Festival
Abbotsleigh girls in local concerts

Kimbal Harding
Head of Music


Venture into the labyrinth and discover your own path to enlightenment this Easter. Join Anna Fraser (soprano), Neal Peres da Costa (continuo organ), Laura Vaughan (viola da gamba/viols) and Simon Martyn-Ellis (lute/theorbo) on a sumptuous and spiritual journey showcasing this beautiful and rarely heard French Baroque vocal work.

The three concerts are:

Saturday 21 March, 7.30 pm St Mary’s Cathedral Crypt, Sydney [www.trybooking.com/BIGQK]
Sunday 22 March, 5 pm, Wesley Church, Wesley Music Centre, Forrest, ACT [www.trybooking.com/BIIHGK]
Tuesday 24 March, 7 pm, Parish of Holy Name, Wahroonga [www.trybooking.com/BIIHOI]

Ticket prices: $50; concession $40; under 30, $30

Work Experience

Mrs Marg Selby
Careers Advisor

Along with providing a sound academic background, tertiary providers are realising more and more the value of embedding work experience into their courses. They use different names at different institutions for this opportunity, such as work integrated learning, internships or industry and community placements for example.

At Abbotsleigh, we have always appreciated the benefits of offering a range of experiential learning programs for our girls and so, for decades, we have provided a work experience program for our Year 10 students. This year, our program runs from 25-29 May and the girls are now seeking placements across a wide range of interest areas. If any of our parent body would be happy to provide a position at their workplace for one of our girls for a week at the end of May, I would greatly appreciate hearing from you on selbym@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au.

The work experience program allows students to meet people from varied age groups, who share interests similar to their own. In addition, the girls learn to enhance their communication skills and to gain a greater appreciation about the world of work. It also opens their eyes to the value of networking and allows them to develop new work-related skills and thus provides them with a wide range of valuable life experiences.

For other Careers news please visit the Abbotsleigh Careers page.
Years 9 and 10 boarders spent an action-packed Saturday night with the Knox boarders at Flip Out – an indoor trampoline park in Castle Hill.

When we arrived, we saw a sea of never-ending bouncy goodness! We were each given a pair of grip socks and couldn’t get to the trampolines and pits fast enough to begin bouncing our hearts out!

It was a great venue and there were many activities, including the foam pit, dodgeball and basketball hoop. After a lot of jumping and hard work, we quickly worked up an appetite and were delighted to partake in some pizza upstairs – you can’t go wrong with pizza! A winner all round!

After dinner there was an exciting competition of the best flips. It was game on: Abbotsleigh vs Knox. We were fired up and determined not to be defeated! As predicted, our girl power overruled and we won the flip competition! We followed this with an intense game of dodgeball, against Knox yet again. However, the winner was undetermined due to all the non-regulation ‘moves’ and ‘techniques’, otherwise known as cheating! But all in good fun!

It was a fantastic night and a great opportunity to get together with fellow Knox boarders and their staff.
Literary Festival Champagne Opening

Please join us as we launch this year’s festival with Australian actor, author and media personality Andrew Daddo at our sparkling opening event.

READ MORE

Adult Workshop: Crime Writing

Always wanted to write a crime novel? Then you won’t want to miss this workshop.

READ MORE

2020 Abbotsleigh Literary Festival

Book your tickets to any of our 2020 Literary Festival sessions across three days in March.

BOOK TICKETS

Adult Workshop: Visualising Your Story

A morning tea and drawing workshop to explore ways that illustrations are created to enhance stories or to give life to our imagination and experiences.

READ MORE